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D.A. Starts Fight On Miranda Rule

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 12 (UPI)—Backed by prosecutors from around the nation, District Attorney Arlen Specter today filed a petition aimed at overthrowing the controversial Miranda dedision of the U.S. Supreme Court.

In a petition filed at Common Pleas Court here, Specter sought to reopen the case of Paul Ware, who confessed to the bludgeon slayings of four persons during 1963 robberies.

Specter said of the Ware Case:

"He gave a confession to the police in 1963. He was then determined to be not competent to stand trial. He goes to an institution.

"When he comes out five years later, the law's been changed around so that all of those confessions are thrown out.

"We had a tough battle to get him put back in the institution or else he would be out walking on the street."

Specter said he thought the "time is right" to challenge the 5-to-4 Miranda ruling. He cited several recent developments including a directive issued by Attorney General John N. Mitchell and the new composition of the high court.

The Mitchell directive, Specter said, advises federal prosecutors to be guided by the 1968 omnibus crime control law instead of the Miranda ruling. Specter said the 1968 act overruled the Miranda decision by permitting voluntary confessions to be accepted as evidence even if the defendant has not been advised of his rights.

The petition came on the heels of a resolution approved here Saturday by the National District Attorneys' Association. The group endorsed the proposed court challenge during its annual convention.

Under the Miranda ruling, a suspect must be given four warnings before any confession can be considered valid court evidence. The suspect is advised that: He has the right to remain silent; anything said can be used against him; he has the right to an attorney; if the suspect desires an attorney, the state will pay the bill.

Aiken Seeks Rise In Age Benefits

Associated Press

Sen. George D. Aiken (R-Vt.) introduced in the Senate yesterday a bill to raise Social Security benefits 10 per cent.